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ILLICIT TRAFFIC

United States of America

A copy of the relevant chapter of the Annual Report for 1982 is communicated herewith.

The present document is based on data provided by States both Parties and non-Parties to the relevant treaties on the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and the designations employed and the presentation of material do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or any authority, or concerning the delimitation of any frontiers or boundaries.

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CHAPTER VIII. ILLICIT TRAFFIC (Form of Annual Reports E/NR. Form/1982)

Paragraphs

A. GENERAL

90. Illicit traffic in drugs: Yes.

Illicit cultivation, harvesting, manufacture; diversion from licit channels

91a-92b. No.

93a-b. Illicit cultivation of the cannabis plant, the precise area being unknown, was detected throughout the country. The number of illicitly grown cannabis plants is estimated at 13 million. Growth was destroyed after detection by air-spotting by the State and local Police, who are trained and funded by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

94a-b. No.

95a-b. Yes. No systematic eradication campaigns were undertaken.

96a-b. Illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was detected in most part of the United States of America in 1982. Areas having the heaviest concentration included eastern Texas, northern California, and the Washington D.C. - Baltimore, Maryland metropolitan areas. In total 225 clandestine laboratories ranging from small facilities located in apartments or backyard sheds to large industrial size production facilities were discovered. Several hundred kilogrammes of the following drugs and psychotropic substances were illicitly manufactured:

	Number of Labs
Methamphetamine	133
PCP (Phencyclidine)	48
Amphetamine	17
Methaqualone	8
Mescaline	2
MDA (3,4-Methylenedioxy amphetamine)	3
DMT (N,N-Dimethyltryptamine)	1
Methadone	1
Cocaine	6
P2P (Phenyl-2-propanone, a precursor chemical for amphetamine)	6

Common industrial chemicals easily obtainable on the local market were used in the illicit manufacture of drugs. In some instances, phenyl-2-propanone for the manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine was purchased in Europe and smuggled into the country.(See also para. 98a-99.(iv).)

97a-b. Diversion from legitimate national manufacturing and distribution channels accounted for virtually all controlled pharmaceuticals in the illicit market with the exception of amphetamine products, PCP, and methaqualone. Such diversion occurred as the result of thefts, burglaries, hijackings, and fraudulent prescribing and dispensing practices. Pharmaceuticals such as Dilaudid, Valium, methadone, Darvon, Talwin, codeine and Percodan entered the illicit market by these means. Diversion also accounted for 10% of the illicitly available methaqualone.

Smuggling and trafficking

98a-99. (i) Heroin:

A moderate increase of Southeast Asian heroin availability was noticed in 1982. The majority of this heroin entered the country via the west coast or southwest Canada. There were, however, sporadic instances of traffickers transitting Mexico via the Pacific route or through Europe. Southwest Asian heroin remained the predominant narcotic drug in the country, although much of it came from laboratories in Pakistan rather than Europe. While it continued to enter primarily through cities in the northeast, instances of trafficking through ports of entry in the southeast and Canada increased. Mexican heroin potency improved somewhat during the year. Its availability remained high in the southwest and mid-west. It continued to enter the country primarily across the southern land borders of California, Arizona and Texas.

(ii) Cocaine:

Cocaine smuggling continued to be dominated by Colombian traffickers with between 50% and 75% of the cocaine seized coming from Colombia. Cocaine from Colombia most frequently followed a direct route from Colombia to the southeast part of the United States of America. In 1981 and 1982, Colombian traffickers expanded their smuggling methods and routes. The following are now among the most commonly observed smuggling phenomena:

- The use of private aircraft to smuggle large quantities of cocaine, frequently in the 100 kilogram range; these aircraft may fly non-stop from Colombia to the southeast of the United States of America, refuel at an island in the Caribbean, or transit Central America or Mexico.

- The increasing use of cargo to conceal large cocaine shipments;

- The "army of ants" technique of sending numerous couriers who have ingested up to half a kilogram of cocaine each;

- The re-emergence of Mexico as a significant transshipment area;

- The re-emergence of cargo vessels, especially boats, as vehicles for smuggling large amounts of cocaine;

- Couriers using external body carry and specially prepared luggage remained an important means of smuggling.

Smuggling and trafficking (contd.)

98a-99.(contd.)

Couriers normally used established, direct routes from Colombia to the United States of America. Diversion, however, was occasionally practiced, with indirect routes or even transfers of cocaine from one courier to another. Most indirect routes transit the Caribbean region or Central America, with Mexico used for both transit and transshipment.

(iii) Cannabis herb:

Domestic cannabis herb trafficking was not highly organized. The grower was often his own distributor and his market was usually local and limited. Traffickers of domestic cannabis herb preferred sinsemilla (without seeds) to regular cannabis herb because of its greater popularity and higher financial return. Cannabis herb was cultivated throughout the United States of America, but the primary growing areas were in the Far West, the Mid-West and the southeastern regions of the country. Some foreign traffickers relocated their operations to regions outside the southern Florida area. This was in response to enhanced law enforcement pressures. Traffickers were air-dropping cannabis herb in the Bahamas for subsequent movement to Florida using small aircraft and clandestine air fields throughout the southeastern part of the country. The importation of cannabis herb from South America by large mothership lessened in the first months of 1983.

(iv) Psychotropic substances:

Domestic clandestine laboratories accounted for 80% of the amphetamine, 95% of the methamphetamine, five percent of the methaqualone, and all of the PCP, LSD and other hallucinogenic drugs (e.g., MDA and psilocybine) offered for sale on the illicit local market in 1982. Foreign clandestine laboratories in Mexico contributed 20% of the amphetamine, and clandestine manufacture in Canada five percent of the methamphetamine illicitly available during 1982. Fully 85% of the methaqualone, the principal depressant on the local illicit market, was smuggled in from Colombia and Mexico, where it was tabletted from bulk powder which had been legitimately manufactured in producing countries and subsequently diverted by international traffickers.

100a. Drugs seized in 1982:

	Weight/quantity
Opium	119 kg 70 g
Morphine	33 g
Heroin	275 kg 986 g
Other opiates	7 049 doses
Cocaine	5 666 kg 648 g
Cannabis herb	1 276 787 kg 409 g
Cannabis resin	1 400 kg 193 g
Liquid cannabis	29 lt.471 ml
Liquid opium	901 ml
Amphetamines and other stimulants	4 482 404 doses
Barbiturates	5 739 423 doses
Other hallucinogens	1 978 617 doses

100b. The decrease in seizures of stimulants, hallucinogens and depressants in 1982 compared with 1981 were mainly attributable to international initiatives to control the manufacture and export of controlled substances and to several large seizures during 1981. The increases in the quantity of other narcotic drugs, especially cocaine and cannabis herb, were a result of the extensive interdiction efforts of the Government during 1982 and an overall increase in the illicit cocaine traffic.

Prices and purity of illicit drugs

101a-b.

Wholesale:	US$*/
Heroin (purity 40-90%)	180 000 - 225 000 per kg
Cocaine (purity 75-90%)	55 000 - 65 000 per kg
Cannabis herb	250 - 1 200 per lb. (454 g)
Cannabis resin	1 000 - 2 000 per lb.
Retail:	
Heroin (average purity 5%)	2.13 per mg
Cocaine (purity 35%)	100 - 125 mg
Cannabis herb	50 - 100 per oz. (28 g)
Cannabis resin	100 - 200 per oz.
Amphetamine	3.00 - 3.50 per dose
Barbiturates	4.00 - 5.00 per dose
PCP (purity 5%)	10.00 - 15.00 per dose (100mg)
LSD	3.00 - 5.00 per dose

101c. -

101d. Adulterants and diluents:

Heroin - quinine, caffeine, lactose, mannitol, procaine corn starch, tartaric acid, pyrilamine, sucrose, dextrose, inositol, lidocaine, talcum, benzoyltropine;
Cocaine - lactose, mannitol, lidocaine, corn starch, benzoyltropine;
Cannabis - various herbs.

Prosecutions

102. 12 632 persons were arrested and 7 254 prosecuted. Prosecutions are defined as acquittals, convictions and dismissals during 1982, as reported by DEA domestic field offices. These data are a separate population from that reported under "arrested".

Prosecutions (contd.)

102.(contd.)

	Number of persons arrested	Number of persons prosecuted
Opium	24	12
Morphine	8	16
Heroin	2 187	1 355
Synthetic narcotics	2	3
Cocaine	4 380	2 496
Cannabis plants and seeds	3 560	1 888
Cannabis and cannabis resin	119	87
Amphetamine and other stimulants	955	554
Depressants	403	288
Other drugs		183
LSD and other hallucinogens	601	372

103a-b. Predominant groups: 10 815 males and 1 833 females.

104a-b. Foreigners were mainly implicated in offences with regard to cannabis herb, cocaine and heroin, involvement of foreign citizens with other drugs was limited to less than 10% of prosecutions. Amongst the 65 nationalities involved, the largest numbers of foreigners prosecuted were from the following countries: Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico.

B. ORGANIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT

105. Organizations responsible: DEA assisted by the FBI; Customs (border interdiction responsibilities).

106. Specialized units: DEA and State and local law enforcement authorities.

107. DEA co-ordinates the exchange of information and jointly investigates drug abuse cases with all international law enforcement authorities.

108a. The office ensuring liaison on a national basis forms part of the services responsible for the National Central Bureau of ICPO/Interpol.

108b-c. -

109a-b. DEA maintains liaison and participates in ICPO/Interpol and regional meetings.

Suggestions

110a-b. Recommendations are made at sessions of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.